

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical pickup is provided for recording and reproduction of information onto and from an optical disk. In the optical disk, in a forward optical path, a single polarized optical beam is converted to plural polarized optical beams. Polarization modes of the plural polarized optical beams are then converted to a polarization mode suitable for one of the recording and the reproduction to produce polarization-converted optical beams and to radiate the polarization-converted optical beams to the disk. In the backward optical path, polarization modes of the polarization-converted optical beams reflected from the disk are returned to the same polarization mode as that of the plural polarized optical beams, so that plural polarized reflected optical beams are produced. Polarization modes of the plural polarized reflected optical beams are then returned to the same polarization mode as the single polarized optical mode.